

60130-1001
99MRA0206**REMARKS**

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CDR 1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention as specified in the claims. The Examiner states that the means for producing rotational movement of the output member 50 must be shown or the features cancelled from the claims. The drawings show the claimed features. Figure 3 illustrates an actuator assembly including an actuator 14, an energy storing member 78, and an output member 68 that moves rotationally. Although the claims directed to Figure 3 were not elected, Figure 3 illustrates the features of claim 16. The drawings show the claimed features. The objection is improper, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 2-7 and 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner states that the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and/or use the invention. The Examiner contends that the written description does not clearly describe how the output member 50 moves rotationally. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The claimed invention is supported by the specification. The specification discloses an actuator 14, an energy storing member (an assist spring 78), and an output member 68 that moves rotationally. The specification discloses that when the actuator 14 is in a rest position, the assist spring 78 is compressed and the output lever 68 is prevented from being rotated in a clockwise direction under the influence of the assist spring 78 (page 6, lines 6 to 8). The specification also discloses that a stop pawl disengagement ramp 64 causes a stop pawl 80 to disengage from a stop abutment 76, allowing the output lever 68 to rotate in a clockwise direction under the influence of the assist spring 78 and a drive pin 62 as it contacts an end 72A of an arcuate slot 72 (page 6, lines 19 to 22). Figure 3 also shows these features. Although Figure 3 was not elected, the specification clearly supports the claimed invention. The rejection is improper.

Regarding the Examiner's reference to the text on page 5, lines 12 to 14 that describes the second embodiment of the invention shown in Figure 2, one skilled in the art would know how the output member 50 could move in a rotational direction. The specification teaches that the output member 50 could move rotationally, and a detent arrangement 44 could act substantially perpendicularly to the rotational direction (i.e., radially inwardly or radially outwardly). One

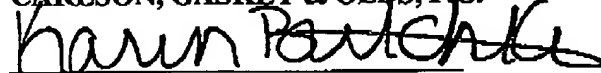
60130-1001
99MRA0206

skilled in the art would understand how rotation of a worm wheel 24 would cause an attached output member 50 to move rotationally. The claimed invention is supported by the specification, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Thus, claims 2-14 and 16-21 are in condition for allowance. No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.



Karin H. Butchko
Registration No. 45,864
400 West Maple Road, Suite 350
Birmingham, Michigan 48009
Telephone: (248) 988-8360
Facsimile: (248) 988-8363

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, (703) 872-9306 on March 24, 2005.



Amy Spaulding